

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 EB-08 NSCE-00 SS-15 DOE-15
SOE-02 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
DOEE-00 /068 R

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ARA/AND - MR. BARNEBEY
-----034250 121849Z /47

O 121842Z JUN 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148503

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PERP, VE, US

SUBJECT: THE "BRIEFING PAPERS LEAK"

REF: CARACAS 5336 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED TRANSCRIPT
OF STATEMENT MADE BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT NOON PRESS
BRIEFING JUNE 12, 1978: QUOTE: I HAVE A SHORT STATE-
MENT: ON SATURDAY, JUNE 10, OUR EMBASSY IN CARACAS
ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA SEEING THE UPI REPORT THAT ALLEGEDLY
DESCRIBED CERTAIN BRIEFING PAPERS COMMENTING ON VENE-
ZUELAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS THE EMBASSY WISHES TO STATE THAT
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TAKES
ABSOLUTELY NO POSITION REGARDING THE FORTHCOMING VENE-
ZUELAN ELECTIONS. THE POINTS OF VIEW DESCRIBED IN THE
NEWS REPORT DO NOT IN ANY WAY REFLECT THE POSITION OR
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POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. THAT IS THE END
OF THE EMBASSY'S QUOTE. I WOULD SAY FURTHER, THE
QUOTATIONS FROM CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS THAT APPEARED IN THE
PRESS ACCOUNT SEEM TO COME FROM BACKGROUND BRIEFING
MATERIALS PREPARED AT STAFF LEVELS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S
TRIP. THEY DO NOT REPRESENT A STATEMENT OF U.S. POLICY,

THEY DO NOT REPRESENT OFFICIAL U.S. VIEWS OR POLICY. LET ME GIVE YOU TWO EXTRACTS OF WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER DID SAY IN CARACAS WHICH ARE DEFINITIVE STATEMENTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION. THE FIRST, "THERE IS NO PLACE I WOULD RATHER BEGIN SUCH A JOURNEY THAN HERE IN VENEZUELA, BY NATIONS, ALLIES, IN SUPPORT OF DEMOCRACY AND ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADERS IN THE SOLUTION OF THOSE ISSUES THAT TROUBLE US SO MUCH." THAT IS THE END OF ONE QUOTE. A SECOND QUOTE, "WE HAVE A POLICY IN OUR COUNTRY WHICH I AM INSISTENT IN MAINTAINING --- WOULD NOT INTERVENE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER NATIONS". END OF THAT QUOTE. AND THAT IS THE END OF MY STATEMENTS FOR TODAY.

2. FOR CARACAS: YOU SHOULD INFORM PRESIDENT PEREZ OF THE ABOVE AND ADD THAT WE DEEPLY REGRET ANY DIFFICULTIES THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE PRESS STORIES. YOU SHOULD REITERATE TO HIM THE IMPORTANCE THAT WE PLACE ON OUR CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS, AND ASSURE HIM THAT FOR OUR PART WE EXPECT RELATIONS TO CONTINUE IN THIS VEIN. WE WOULD LIKE TO PUT ASIDE THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND CONTINUE WITH THE MANY IMPORTANT AREAS OF RELATIONS IN WHICH OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED.

3. FYI: IN RESPONSE TO PARA THREE OF REFTTEL, THE UPI ARTICLES CONTAIN VERBATIM QUOTES FROM THE BRIEFING
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PAPERS (CLASSIFIED SECRET) PREPARED FOR THE VENEZUELA VISIT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, NEWS LEAKS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE148503
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: VLGRAHAM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780245-0654
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780669/aaaachgi.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a648d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CARACAS 5336
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2386924
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE ("BRIEFING PAPERS LEAK")
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, VE, US
To: CARACAS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a648d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014